

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 03617 081714Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 672

SECDEF WASHDC

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DOD FOR OSD/ISA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, MASS, BL

SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF CHIEF OF BOLIVIAN ARMED FORCES
STAFF

1. MAJOR GENERAL VICTOR GONZALES FUENTES, CHIEF OF THE BOLIVIAN
ARMED FORCES STAFF, INFORMED ME THAT HE PLANS TO BE IN
WASHINGTON MAY 18-19. HE IS INTERESTED IN TALKING TO DEFENSE
AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES ON (A) THE BOLIVIAN MILITARY'S CIVIC
ACTION PROGRAM AND WHAT THE USG CAN DO TO SUPPORT THIS WORK,
AND (B) MATTERS RELATED TO FMS CREDIT BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

2. I HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT WITH THEIR DEPARTURE FROM GOVERNMENT
AFTER 12 YEARS, THE BOLIVIAN ARMED FORCES WILL FIND THAT THEIR
AMOUR PROPRE REQUIRES THAT SOME PURCHASES BE MADE FOR LONG-
DELAYED MODERNIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES. THIS POINT WAS MADE
TO ME IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ARMED FORCES COMMANDERS.
THERE WILL NOW BE A DEBATE IN THE ARMED FORCES AS TO WHETHER THESE
PRUCHASES SHOULD EMPHASIZE CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS, TRANSPORT
AND TRAINING EQUIPMENT, AND MODERATE EQUIPMENT OF LIGHT
INFANTRY FORCES, OR WHETHER HEAVY EQQUIPMENT SHOULD
BE BOUGHT. IN THE GONZALES VISIT AND OTHER CONTACTS WE MAY
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 03617 081714Z

HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THESE DECISIONS AND WE SHOULD
NOT PASS IT UP. CONSEQUENTLY, I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR
OUR OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING REGIONAL TENSIONS THAT THE GENERAL
BE RECEIVED AND LISTENED TO VERY CAREFULLY.

3. THE CHIEF OF MILGP WILL VISIT WITH GENERAL GONZALES
CONCERNING HIS TRIP AND TRY TO GET FURTHER DETAILS ON HIS

INTERESTS IN WASHINGTON. WE WILL ADVISE OF THE SUBSTANCE
OF THEIR DISCUSSION, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
AN INDICATION OF WHAT OFFICIALS IN DEFENSE AND STATE CAN
MEET WITH GONZALES.
BOEKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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